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NEWS

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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BERGLAND REPORTS ON FOREIGN OWNERSHIP OF U.S. AGRICULTURAL LAND:

ABILENE, Tex., Sept. 20--Foreign investors hold an interest in about 4 million acres of U.S. agricultural land, according to a preliminary data examined by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and announced here today by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland.

The review indicates foreign owners hold less than one-half of 1 percent of all private U.S. agricultural land.

The estimate is based on a preliminary review of 4,500 reports filed as of Sept. 1 by foreign investors under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978.

Bergland said distribution patterns indicate that foreign ownership is heavily concentrated in the South and West, although foreign agricultural land holdings were reported in all 50 states. Georgia, South Carolina, and Tennessee account for 27 percent of all foreign-owned acreage (table 1), he said.

Similar concentration patterns are apparent in the countries-of-origin of foreign owners (table 2), Bergland said. A relatively few countries account for the bulk of foreign-held U.S. agricultural land. From the data examined so far, investors from the United Kingdom, Luxembourg, West Germany and Canada hold 72 percent of all foreign-owned land reported.

As of Sept. 1, over 5,000 reporting forms had been received in Washington, D.C. Of these, 3,000 reports, accounting for 2,687,828 acres, were analyzed by the department's Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service. The other

reports had to be returned for further information or corrections, or are still being processed. Consequently, the preliminary results shown in the tables are subject to revision. A more thorough analysis of the first reports received by the department will be submitted to the president and Congress Nov. 2.

Under the law, foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land as of Feb. 1, 1979, were required to file a report with the department by Aug. 1. Those who acquired or disposed of U.S. agricultural land after Feb. 1 are required to file within 90 days.

They must file with the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) office serving the county where the land is located. Failure to report, or filing late or misleading reports, can result in penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the owner's interest in the agricultural land.

All foreign individuals, governments, or legal entities created under the laws of, or having their principal place of business in, a foreign country are required to file. In addition, all U.S. legal entities in which foreigners hold 5 percent or more interest are required to report their agricultural land holdings.

The law defines agricultural land as all land used for agricultural, forestry, or timber production. This includes land in agricultural use when purchased as well as land later converted to agricultural use. Tracts smaller than one acre, which produce less than \$1,000 worth of gross agricultural sales a year, are exempt from the reporting requirement.

Table 1

ACREAGE HELD BY FOREIGN OWNERS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1979,
SUMMARIZED FROM REPORTS CONFIRMED BY SEPTEMBER 1, 1979,
BY STATES

(Preliminary, subject to revision)

STATE	:	ACRES
	:	
ALABAMA	:	121,933
ALASKA	:	337
ARIZONA	:	65,164
ARKANSAS	:	20,605
CALIFORNIA	:	101,609
COLORADO	:	124,457
CONNECTICUT	:	220
DELAWARE	:	837
FLORIDA	:	118,000
GEORGIA	:	215,898
HAWAII	:	14,166
IDAHO	:	6,491
ILLINOIS	:	25,133
INDIANA	:	5,335
IOWA	:	12,383
KANSAS	:	20,696
KENTUCKY	:	5,642
LOUISIANA	:	16,525
MAINE	:	20,863
MARYLAND	:	8,197
MASSACHUSETTS	:	134,262
MICHIGAN	:	5,120
MINNESOTA	:	15,673
MISSISSIPPI	:	72,915
MISSOURI	:	16,759
MONTANA	:	124,437
NEBRASKA	:	26,007
NEVADA	:	130,258
NEW HAMPSHIRE	:	30,040
NEW JERSEY	:	7,048
NEW MEXICO	:	35,570
NEW YORK	:	95,862
NORTH CAROLINA	:	59,422
NORTH DAKOTA	:	11,805
OHIO	:	2,904
OKLAHOMA	:	2,442
OREGON	:	163,609
	:	

ACREAGE HELD BY FOREIGN OWNERS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1979,
SUMMARIZED FROM REPORTS CONFIRMED BY SEPTEMBER 1, 1979,
BY STATES

(Preliminary, subject to revision)

STATE	:	ACRES
	:	
PENNSYLVANIA	:	77,135
SOUTH CAROLINA	:	219,948
SOUTH DAKOTA	:	14,913
TENNESSEE	:	285,773
TEXAS	:	147,252
UTAH	:	1,580
VERMONT	:	22,383
VIRGINIA	:	36,554
WASHINGTON	:	30,887
WEST VIRGINIA	:	2,599
WISCONSIN	:	7,994
WYOMING	:	1,800
PUERTO RICO	:	386
TOTAL	:	2,687,828

Table 2

ACREAGE HELD BY FOREIGN OWNERS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1979,
SUMMARIZED FROM REPORTS CONFIRMED BY SEPTEMBER 1, 1979
BY COUNTRY

(Preliminary, subject to revision)

Country <u>1/</u>	:	Acres
	:	
ARGENTINA	:	216
AUSTRALIA	:	1,132
AUSTRIA	:	1,701
BAHAMAS	:	20,517
BELGIUM	:	36,687
BERMUDA	:	9,158
BRAZIL	:	1,340
BR. VIRGIN IS.	:	14,252
CANADA	:	265,894
CAYMAN ISLANDS	:	8,682
CHILE	:	5
CHINA	:	2,148
COLOMBIA	:	13,973
CZECHOSLOVAKIA	:	415
DENMARK	:	3,527
ECUADOR	:	2
EGYPT	:	165
GUYANA	:	334
FRANCE	:	49,530
WEST GERMANY	:	352,147
GREECE	:	6,223
GUATEMALA	:	106
FINLAND	:	80
HONDURAS	:	15
HONG KONG	:	5,907
INDIA	:	36
IRAN	:	492
IRELAND	:	310
ISRAEL	:	177
ITALY	:	3,344
IVORY COAST	:	119
JAMAICA	:	294
JAPAN	:	14,229
JORDAN	:	229
KUWAIT	:	217
LEBANON	:	943
LIBERIA	:	22,276
LIECHTENSTEIN	:	27,567
LUXEMBOURG	:	398,550 <u>2/</u>
	:	

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ACREAGE HELD BY FOREIGN OWNERS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1979,
SUMMARIZED FROM REPORTS CONFIRMED BY SEPTEMBER 1, 1979,
BY COUNTRY

(Preliminary, subject to revision)

Country	:	Acres
	:	
MEXICO	:	47,755
NETHERLANDS	:	126,956
NETH. ANTILLES	:	187,449
NEW ZEALAND	:	160
NORWAY	:	4,367
PAKISTAN	:	80
PANAMA	:	19,723
PHILIPPINES	:	2,789
SOUTH KOREA	:	26
SOUTH AFRICA	:	1,478
SPAIN	:	58
SWEDEN	:	1,462
SWITZERLAND	:	62,291
TURKEY	:	520
UNITED KINGDOM	:	907,892
URUGUAY	:	9
VENEZUELA	:	4,945
MULTIPLE COUNTRIES <u>3/</u>	:	35,715
U.S./SECOND TIER <u>4/</u>	:	21,214
TOTAL	:	2,687,828

1/ Includes direct holdings and countries holding a 5 percent or greater interest in a U.S. entity (corporation, partnership, estate etc.)

2/ 150,000 acres in one holding in Oregon.

3/ No predominant country.

4/ U.S. entity owned by another U.S. entity which is at least 5 percent owned by a foreign owner.

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